

# OPERATORS WILL SURRENDER KEYS AT MIDNIGHT

## Military Personnel Will Assume Complete Charge of Plants

At the strike of midnight tonight the Elwood Ordnance Plant and Kankakee Ordnance Works—now known as the Joliet Arsenal—will be under the supervision of the U. S. government as the two operating companies terminate their contracts, it was announced today by Col. Byron Rife, commanding officer.

"We take over at midnight tonight," Col. Rife said, "and the military will be in charge of all operations as the contracts terminate."

John J. Cole, general manager of the EOP, will turn over the keys to Col. Rife, while at KOW the honor will belong to J. W. Ackerman, general manager.

MR. COLE has been associated with the local ordnance plants probably longer than any other individual, coming here in September of 1940, when he was appointed comptroller of EOP.



JOHN J. COLE



J. W. ACKERMAN

and established the firm's Joliet office.

"I plan to return to the New York office of Sanderson and Porter about Dec. 15," he said today. "However, I may have to return to Joliet from time to time pending business needs."

A member of the engineering staff of Sanderson and Porter, who operated the EOP, Mr. Cole was named assistant general manager in May 1943, and was appointed general manager on March 23, 1945, succeeding the late W. E. Cayniff, who became inactive because of illness.

A native of Bradford, Pa., and a graduate in mechanical engineering of Cornell university, class of 1923, Mr. Cole has been with Sanderson and Porter since 1925. He was a member of the firm's industrial engineering department for many years, prior to serving in his higher capacities.

Since April 2, 1944, Mr. Ackerman has been manager of the Kankakee Ordnance Works, when operations were taken over by the U. S. Rubber company. With the company since 1942, Mr. Ackerman was assistant manager of the Pennsylvania Ordnance Works at Williamsport, Pa., before coming to KOW. The Pennsylvania plant was also operated by U. S. Rubber.

"I plan to return to New Jersey about the middle of December," Mr. Ackerman said today. "I also plan to leave the U. S. Rubber company and resume my own business at Paterson, N. J., which is called The Fine Color company. We manufacture colors and pigment for paints, plastics, printing, lithographing and other uses."

Mr. Ackerman said that the E. I. Du Pont de Nemours company operated KOW from Sept. 1941 to April, 1944. Previous to Sept., 1941, Stone and Webster, contractors, were in charge at KOW.